

## **Council for Labor & Economic Growth**

Quarterly Meeting  
Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort  
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan  
Tuesday, September 13, 2005  
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Kenneth Baker	Thomas Hickner	Michael Schmidt
Lloyd Bingman, Ph. D.	David Hollister	Jaye Shamsiddeen
Theodore Blashak	Win Irwin	Patricia Shimmens
Richard Blouse, Jr.	Eleanor Josaitis	Kester So
David Binkley	Janet Joseph	Mary Thornton
Antoon Brusselmans	Mitzi King	Mitch Tomlinson
Michael Bryanton	Frank Lopez	Marianne Udow
Patrick Cannon	Alan Low	John Voorhorst
Matthew Chambers	Juan Mestas	Benjie Williams
Richard Dandurand	William Orabone	George Yost
Bradley Dyer	Sharon Parks	Michael Zelle
David Eisler	William Peterson	Lynn Zuellig
Doyle Hayes	Gene Pierce	
George Heartwell	Sharon Rivera	
John Hernandez	Trenda Rusher	

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Wilma Abney	Michael Haller	Phillip Power
Derick Adams	Dennis Hands	Hubert Price, Jr.
E. Sharon Banks	Robert Jacquart	Hari Radeshwar
Ralph Bedogne	Jack Litzenberg	Alan Sanborn
Harry Bonner Sr.	Kenneth Meshigaud	Buzz Thomas
Matthew Brynildson	Myra Moreland	John Van Wyck
Enrique Carrillo	Shelly Norman-Hill	Sharon Wenzl
Christopher Fitch	Janet Olszewski	
Michael Flanagan	Sherri Peterson	
Norma Hagenow	Sharon Peters	

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Mitch Tomlinson, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m., welcomed the Council members, and stated the Chair, Sharon Wenzl would not be able to attend the meeting due to Tower Automotive obligations. He acknowledged and thanked Mr. Byron Zuidema, Region V Administrator, U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), for his comments during the luncheon prior to the meeting and also welcomed Ms. Lynn Bajorek from USDOL Region V, Mr. Dick Ensor, a USDOL representative from Washington DC, and the Michigan Works! Executive Committee. Forty-two CLEG members were in attendance and 17 Council members attended the Michigan Works! for People Annual Conference.

Mr. Tomlinson stated he recently attended the National Association of State Workforce Board Chairs Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon with Ms. Marcia Black-Watson, Administrator for the Council for Labor & Economic Growth and acknowledged Ms. Black-Watson for all of her hard work. Thirty-six states were represented at the Chairs meeting. States across the country face very similar issues. Other states are interested in what Michigan is doing to address its workforce and economic challenges. Discussion at the meeting included the status of the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and other federal legislation.

Ms. Black-Watson further explained that the National Governor's Association facilitated the activities and meetings of the State Workforce Board Chairs. These meetings not only focus on regulatory duties of state boards, but also the broad workforce and economic development issues states are facing. Specifically, the theme of this meeting was collaboration between workforce and post-secondary education systems.

## II. ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Tomlinson stated that the procedure that has been used for introducing action items to the Council includes a comprehensive review and feedback by the appropriate standing committee followed by a short presentation to the Council of their findings. CLEG's By-Laws will be presented for approval at the November 7 meeting; until then, this standard procedure for action items will be used.

### II. i. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A MOTION was made and SUPPORTED to approve the May 23, 2005 meeting minutes.

### II. ii. PROGRAM YEAR (PY) 2005 WORKFORCE INFORMATION CORE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES GRANT

Mr. Tomlinson introduced Mr. Matt Chambers, Chair of the Accelerating Re-Employment/Workforce System Committee, Mr. Rick Waclawek, Director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives (BLMISI), Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) and Mr. Bruce Weaver, Economic Manager, BLMISI/DLEG as presenters of the Program Year (PY) 2005 Workforce Information Core Products and Services Grant.

Mr. Chambers explained that the purpose of the grant is to provide an annual funding allocation (\$1,025,327 for PY 2005) from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration to BLMISI/DLEG for labor market information (LMI) data, product, and service development. Grant functions and activities, include:

- Update the federal LMI database with economic and labor market data
- Produce and disseminate industry and occupational employment projections
- Provide occupational and career information products for public use
- Provide workforce information and support required by state and local workforce development boards
- Maintain and enhance electronic state workforce information delivery systems
- Support state workforce information training activities

Several new initiatives are planned for PY 2005 including suggestions from the Accelerating Re-Employment/Workforce System Committee to research the customization of the SkillWindow software system, innovation indicators, and measure skill sets for entrepreneurs. The committee recommends the approval of the grant plan.

The floor was opened for questions to Mr. Waclawek and Mr. Weaver. It was asked if the grant was recurring and what specific initiatives would be funded. Mr. Weaver answered that Michigan receives a grant each PY and directed the Council members to the third page of the executive summary that lists new activities planned for PY 2005. Another question posed was why the state was capturing entrepreneurial skill sets. Mr. Weaver answered that this was one of the suggestions by the Committee during their review and Mr. Chambers explained that the research would help Michigan better meet the needs of entrepreneurs. A comment was made that the amount of funds allocated for optional equipment purchase seemed high. Mr. Weaver stated most of the allocation was for staff time not equipment purchases.

A MOTION was made and SUPPORTED to approve the PY 2005 Workforce Information Core Products and Services Grant Plan.

Mr. Chambers provided information to the Council members on the Workforce Compact for Michigan, which is an initiative the Accelerating Re-Employment/Workforce System Committee has undertaken. The Compact is a consensus agreement or common agenda to create and sustain the quality of Michigan's workforce amongst major public, private, educational, and governmental partners. A meeting will take place on October 11 to develop a framework for the Compact and a Summit with the entire Council and other partners and stakeholders to ratify the Compact will take place on November 8.

A question was asked if other CLEG committees would be involved in the development of Compact and what role they would play. Ms. Black-Watson responded that the meeting on October 11 will develop the framework for the Compact and further explained the role of other individuals and CLEG to ratify the Compact on November 8. Mr. Brad Dyer, CLEG member, asked if information on the October 11 meeting could be sent out to the entire Council in case they would like to participate. Clarification was then sought regarding dates in November. November 7 is the next CLEG meeting to be held at the Lansing Community College M-TEC and on November 8 a Summit will be held to ratify the Compact - - also at the Lansing Community College M-TEC.

### III. CREATING A CULTURE OF INNOVATION

Mr. Tomlinson stated the Executive Committee discussed the focus of the CLEG committee work at their meeting in July. The Committee identified the need to promote a "Culture of Innovation" within CLEG and throughout the State of Michigan. He introduced Director David Hollister to continue the discussion on innovation.

Director Hollister talked about the perception of Michigan as a rust belt and how this needs to be addressed. Michigan's economy was built through the efforts of entrepreneurs and innovators. Many examples of innovation are prevalent throughout Michigan's history. However, as the economy changes, we as a state must change how we look at innovation. We need to re-image Michigan and if we are to re-image Michigan, we must re-imagine Michigan.

Examples of current program and initiatives designed to promote innovation: Tech-tri-corridor and funding for life sciences; Cool Cities; EDGE2; Michigan Food Policy Council; and Next Energy. The Governor's has an aggressive strategy that will support further innovation through the Jobs for Michigan Fund, Single Business Tax reform and the MERIT Scholarship reform.

Director Hollister asked for ideas and suggestions from the Council that support innovation, promote the Governor's agenda, and re-image Michigan away from the rust belt reputation towards a state where innovation takes place.

Mr. Mike Zelle, CLEG member, talked about accountability and improvement within the workforce system. Most local workforce development boards are working on strategies to engage economic development and incorporate new technology in their everyday business.

Mr. Thomas Hickner, CLEG member, stated there are different ways to capture innovation, but fundamentally the state needs to start investing in public institutions and taxes need to be restructured.

Another comment was made that more research and development (R&D) is done in Michigan than in any other state and we should look for ways to work with the research base already established. The private sector is doing a great amount of research.

Additional comments included:

- Michigan State University's Plan Innovation includes an entrepreneurial curriculum for individuals who would like to start their own business.
- Innovation is not taking place in the marketplace especially with small businesses. This is due largely to a lack of embracing change and the fear of change.
- The state needs a mechanism to sustain the level of R&D and a statewide policy for local economic development.

Mr. Bill Orabone, CLEG member, stated he hopes the Council does not confuse innovation and invention. It is all about change and what we as a state are doing to be innovative, how we can benchmark against other states and be in the forefront, take ideas, even some already tried and unsuccessful, re-look at processes, and coordinate our efforts.

More dialogue ensued, including:

- Manufacturing is a dirty word for kids, however advanced manufacturing is not.
- Young people are afraid to try new things for fear of failure. People with disabilities are overly protected and need to take risks and fail also. Failure is a learning experience and enables individuals to grow.
- Constant change is reality.
- While Michigan is first in R&D efforts, we need to convert this into economic opportunity.
- Innovation can be collaboration amongst partners, such as the Regional Skills Alliances (RSAs).
- The distinction between invention and innovation is that invention can happen anywhere and innovation happens in cities where there are universities.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is reaching out to youth in high schools by having students partner with a mentor to teach good work ethics.

- Clickoncareers.com is oriented towards young people to show them job design and skills needed for careers that interest them.

## VI. JOBS TODAY, JOBS TOMORROW COMMITTEES

Mr. Tomlinson listed the “Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow” Standing Committees and stated some still needed vice-chairs to be appointed. Ms. Black-Watson explained the Executive Committee developed the Committee Protocol at their meeting in July with the purpose of providing direction to the Committees and the individuals staffing them. Key components of the Committee Protocol include:

- Each CLEG Committee will develop a Committee Action Plan (CAP) due by the November 7, 2005 quarterly meeting.
- Individual CAPs will be used to develop an Action Plan for the Council as a whole for submittal to the Governor.
- CLEG Committees will convene at least once between CLEG quarterly meetings.
- Minutes will be kept of each Committee meeting and will be provided to the Advisory Administration Unit, DLEG.
- Committees will provide both verbal and written updates at each CLEG quarterly meeting.

The committees participated in break out sessions to discuss Committee Action Plans.

## V. PUBLIC COMMENT/CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Tomlinson asked for public comment, but there was none. Members were reminded of the next meeting on November 7, 2005 at the Lansing Community College M-TEC, and the Summit on November 8 at the same location. Members were asked to fill out the evaluations.

## VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Tomlinson adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

*In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, the information in these minutes will be made in alternative format (large type, audio tape, etc.) upon request.*

*Approved November 7, 2005*